Incentives to boost family planning

489. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to deny the facilities to the persons having more than two children in order to check the population growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce new incentives and disincentives in order to give boost to family planning in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The issue of disincentives for couples not adopting two child norms was deliberated by the Group of Ministers while formulating the National Population Policy, 2000. It was agreed that disincentives as such should be avoided, as in practice they can become coercive,hurting the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. Besides, surveys show that there is an unmet need for supplies and services, especially in remote and rural areas and urban slums, which require to be addressed on priority.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The National Population Policy, 2000 envisages participation based on informed choice rather than incentives and disincentives. However, certain promotional/motivational measures in the form community incentives, cash incentive of Rs. 500 under the Balika Samridhi Yojana, National Maternity Benefit Scheme etc. have been introduced to encourage the adoption of small family norm, care of the girl child, adoption of healthy behaviour by women during pregnancy etc.

Dengue fever

490. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dengue fever is prevalent in Delhi and some other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the help and assistance extended to the State Governments where dengue fever is prevalent;

(c) whether his Ministry has been educating the masses about the symptoms and treatment of dengue fever;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and